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escort over the Guasso-Ngishu Highland, where he would not have dared to risk his life on his first visit. The wild Kikuyu warriors were now harmless and several of them were among his carriers in the great steppe region east of the highlands. The once feared Masai were being transformed by British cultural methods, the Wakuafi of the Highlands lived in peaceful kraals around Fort Schimoni, and the Kamasia and Wasegeju returned the tinsel ornaments he gave them, saying their wives would not wear the worthless jewelry and preferred copper coin; and it was almost impossible to collect any objects of native handiwork, more's the pity, for they have abandoned their indigenous manufactures.

He observed, also, that it is now easier to procure native labour; that the black farmer produces more than formerly and sells his surplus, and in this way he is decreasing the danger of great loss of life in famine years, as in 1898, when many perished.

Mr. Kaiser's paper is filled with information. He believes that changes for the better will continue and that Great Britain is to be congratulated as the first of the Powers to prove the good and far-reaching effects upon the native population of a great railroad in tropical Africa.

Meine Beobachtungen in Süd-West-Afrika. Von Dr. Semler.

xxiii and 80 pp., 5 Appendices, and 1 Map. Hermann's Erben, Hamburg, 1906. (Price, M. 1.80.)

The writer spent four weeks in the country, presumably in 1906, though his book does not make this point clear. Landing in Lüderitz Bay, in the southern part of the colony, he went inland about 200 miles to Keetmanshoop, from which place he travelled north, partly by automobile through Gibeon to Windhook, the capital, and thence by rail to Swaköpmund and Walfish Bay, stopping at several points on the way. On his long land journey he saw most of the regions where Germans are officially stationed or have settled. He interviewed everybody, farmers, merchants, officials, and soldiers, and noted their opinions and needs. He visited the schools, observed the development of the settlements, farms, and industries, and drew some conclusions, though his time for thorough investigation was certainly limited.

In his opinion, the mining and cattle industries will prosper. Though his remarks on the natives are somewhat cursory, he thinks they may be utilized as work people. He outlines the transportation system that, in his opinion, the colony needs and believes that the harbour of Lüderitz Bay may be adapted for shipping without great difficulty or excessive cost. The first 56 pp. are given to a description of the country, as he saw it, and 28 pp. to his conclusions. The appendices are short papers on the economic value of the southern part of the colony by the author, and on railroads, education, geology, etc., by residents of South Africa. The book is a substantial and a thoughtful addition to the literature on German South West Africa.

Beiträge zur Klimatologie und Hydrographie Mittelamerikas.

Von Dr. Alfred Merz. 96 pp., Appendix, Map, and Diagrams. C. G. Naumann, Leipzig. (1907.)

A thorough study of the data relating to the climate and hydrography of Central America. It is chiefly based upon the publications of Sapper, Hann, A. B. Davis, Pittier, Mierisch, Moritz Wagner, Harrington and the full records

of the San José Observatory, Costa Rica, and of fifty local stations where climatic data have been collected for more or less extended periods. In his introduction, Dr. Merz, who is instructor in Hydrography and in the Geography of Europe in the University of Vienna, discusses the observational records and map material available for his purpose and describes the physico-geographical conditions of the San Juan River basin. Dividing his subject into three sections, he treats (1) of the precipitation and evaporation of Central America (including the annual means of cloudiness and relative humidity); (2) the flow off and its distribution; and (3) the relations between precipitation, flow off, and evaporation, including the influence on vegetation. The three sections are illustrated by 31 tables of observations, each of which is discussed and generalized. In the appendix, the author assembles in 9 tables the most important features of the observational material which he has utilized. The paper is supplemented by 12 figures giving graphic expression to the deductions drawn from the tables and a map in colours showing the precipitation in the basin of San Juan River for the years 1898-1900. The paper will be welcomed as a systematic study of our existing knowledge of the climatic conditions and hydrography of Central America.

Lecture des Cartes Anglaises et des États-Unis. Indications linguistiques, géographiques et topographiques. Par Capitaine P. Pollacchi. 159 pp., avec signes conventionnels. Librairie Militaire R. Chapelot et Cie., Paris, 1908.

The earlier work by Captain Pollacchi on the "Lecture des Cartes Russes" was reviewed in the *BULLETIN* (April, 1908, p. 254). He has now performed the same service in a large part of the fields of official map-making in the United Kingdom and the United States, and, so far as he covers the ground, his volume contains much information that will be useful to map students, not only in foreign lands but also in the two countries named.

In the British section he mentions the Admiralty charts and the maps of the Post Office and Railway Clearing House, but nearly all the descriptive matter is given to the products of the Ordnance Survey. In our country, the U. S. Geological Survey has practically a monopoly of all he has to say in his "Notions générales sur les Services Géographiques" about our official mapping. No mention is made there of the map and chart productions of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Hydrographic Office, the Land Office, the Post Office and the Department of Agriculture, all of which make distinct and some of them voluminous contributions to our map publications. He gives later, however, a full list of the conventional signs used by the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Hydrographic Office. Perhaps most of our own people know little as yet of the activity, in map production, of the Department of Agriculture, but it is rapidly producing maps of its soil surveys in many parts of the country. If a second edition of the work is prepared, it is to be hoped that these omissions will be remedied. The author has very systematically arranged the facts concerning the organization and the products of the Geological Survey. The larger part of the work is given to a list of names and terms used on maps in the English language, but derived from many languages, with their meaning in French; also, explanations of the symbolism and abbreviations employed in British and U. S. marine charts, and geodetic survey sheets, the French transcription of Chinese names written in English, the scales of English and American maps and their equivalents in metric scales and measures, weights and money and their metrical equivalents.